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OCI No. 1560/63

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
Office of Current Intelligence
3 June 1963

CURRENT INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Indonesian Unrest

1. Anti-Chinese riots which began in Java in early May have spread to Medan in North Sumatra and have been reported in Borneo and Celebes. More rioting has occurred in West Java than elsewhere, and most of our information concerns reported outbreaks in that area. Disturbances, however, occurred in various localities throughout Java, including Surabaya and Malang in the east, and Bogor in the west.

2. Most of the riots seem to have been organized. Student and other youth groups appear to have been involved in almost all instances. To what extent they participated in planning the incidents is not clear from available information. Right-wing army elements have also participated. The demonstrations have included non-Javanese groups, including members of Sundanese organizations in West Java and Sumatran students studying in Java. Members and sympathizers of two banned anti-Communist political parties, the Masjumi and the Socialists, and of an illegal fanatical Moslem organization, the Darul Islam, as well as followers of several Sumatran rebel leaders now living in West Java, have also been involved.

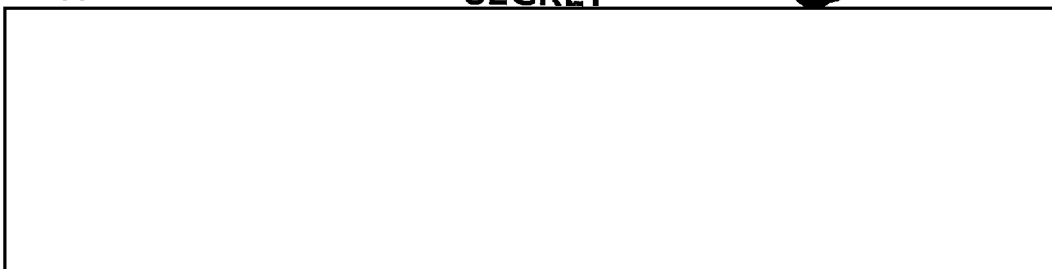
3. The motivation of the rioters appears to be anti-Chinese, anti-Communist, anti-Sukarno feeling and frustration over depressed economic conditions. The emphasis apparently has varied with the group involved.

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5. Reports that high ranking army leaders are behind the wave of rioting have not been confirmed. General Nasution, chief of staff of the armed forces and concurrently Minister of National Security, apparently did not know in advance of the outbreaks in West Java. It is possible that Army leaders are hoping the disorders can be used to justify the reimposition of martial law, which was lifted on 1 May.

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6. [redacted]

[redacted] Indonesia is witnessing an evolving alliance between military and student elements which could lead to political action similar to that which has occurred in Turkey and South Korea. [redacted]

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[redacted] most army elements seem dedicated to the maintenance of order and that there is no indication that army leaders at this time want to inspire national unrest.

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7. [redacted]

[redacted] Some Communist youth apparently did join the rioting, but there is no evidence that they were under orders to do so. The party has publicly ordered its members and front organizations to assist the government in maintaining order. Communist Party strategy continues to be directed toward winning major participation in the government by peaceful methods.

8. The most disturbing problem for the Indonesian government in connection with the riots apparently is the extent to which economic distress may have motivated or contributed to the outbreaks and to what extent the rioting could become widespread. There were instances during the rioting when prosperous Indonesians, as well as Chinese merchants, became targets.

9. Some of the group behind the rioting apparently have been dispersed, at least temporarily.

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While both the army and the Communist Party probably prefer to avoid violence at this time [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] population pressure is great and economic distress widespread on Java. The riots have had a deep impact on the masses and more could easily occur. The emotions that have been aroused seem to differ from the private grumbling which has long been chronic in this area.

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